Supply orders of Casnub Bogies to small manufacturers

2949. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the litigation by the three big suppliers the stand of the Railway Board before High Court as well as before the Supreme Court was that order of Higher quantity of Casnub Bogies is being placed to small manufacturers pending finalisation of new formula of allocation since the old formula was heavily tilting in favour of big suppliers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court did not modify allocation of quantity to small suppliers;

(c) if so, the reasons for which a big manufacturer was allotted highest quantity and the quantity of the smaller manufacturers was reduced this year (1993-94);

(d) whether the formula which was heavily tilting in favour of big suppliers of Casnub bogies has since modified; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. The allocations of higher quantity to small manufacturers was not made pending finalisation of a new formula but on consideration of sickness of some of the units and other relevant considerations.

(b) Supreme Court did not modify allocation of quantity to small manufacturer on the ground that they did not desire to disturb the allocation at that stage, keeping in view the progress made by these units in manufacturing bogies and left it to railway authorities for making necessary adjustments in the next year's tender.

(c) The allocations for 1993-94 were made on the basis of a revised formula—and after making necessary adjustments for the quantities in terms of Supreme Court judgement.

(d) the formula has since been modified and in the new formula, weightage has also been given to price quoted in addition to the performance, with a view to encourage competition and to safeguard the interest of the exchequer.

(e) Does not arise.

Conversion of Vadodara-Chhota Udepur rail line

2950. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when the work of conversion of Vadodara—Chhota Udepur narrow gauge railway line into broad gauge would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): This is not a sanctioned work. As such, question of its completion does not arise.

Vadodara Railway Division

2951. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vadodara Division is the heaviest amongst all the divisions of the country;

(b) whether the State Government has requested to create a separate division at Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar;

(c) if so, what action has been taken in this regard; and

(d) whether it is a fact that due to severe resource constraint, Railways are not contemplating creation of new division even when State Government has requested to reconsider it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Prevailing financial constraints preclude the possibility of going in for any new Division for the present. Moreover, an Area Manager's office, headed by an officer in the Senior Administrative Grade, is already functioning at Ahmedabad to look after the day-to-day requirements of the local rail-users as well as the Railway Administration. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

Curtailment in annual Plan size of Railways

2952. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway propose to cut down the annual Plan size of 1993-94 by Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor stating the areas likely to be affected with the pruning of the plan size; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to fund the projects likely to suffer as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Railways propose to cut down plan expenditure during 1993-94 by Rs. 300 crores.

(b) Shortfall in revenue has necessitated this decision. All major plan heads except gauge conversion, MTP, Bridge Works and plan heads dealing with users amenities and Staff quarters are affected.

(c) Pace of execution of affected works may slow down somewhat until the resource position improves.

Construction of overbridge near Mahila College, Rajkot

2953. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct over-bridges near Amrapali Cinema and Mahila College (Western Railway) in Rajkot;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the time schedule fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir. A proposal for construction of a road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 7 at km. 4/6-7 near Amrapali Cinema and Mahila College between Rajkot-Baktinagar section has been received from the State Govt., preliminary formalities for which are yet to be completed by the State Govt.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Late Running of Trains

2954. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the spurt of inordinate delay in the running of trains;

(b) whether there has been any computation of mandays lost because of the delays; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to put a stop to the delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Mainly due to reasons like agitations/bandhs on issues not connected with the Railways, natural calamities and accidents etc.

(b) No, Sir.